

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
TOWN OF WESTERLY
WESTERLY FIRE DISTRICT
PROCEEDING AT HEARING**

IN RE :

**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
WESTERLY FIRE DISTRICT**

DATE :

August 27, 2014

TIME :

7 :00 P .M .

PLACE :

Westerly Town Hall

Town Council Chambers

45 Broad Street

Westerly, RI

BEFORE

Michael P . Lynch, Esquire, District Legal

Council/Acting Chairman

Richard Mansfield, Clerk

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(COMMENCED AT 7 :01 P .M .)

MR . LYNCH : I have 7 :01 . So, we'll call

tonight's agenda -- meeting, rather, of the

Westerly Fire District, August 27, 2014, to order .

I will note that the moderator is traveling, and

the treasurer/tax collector, Mike Lenihan, is
indisposed this evening . My name is Mike Lynch .
I'm the solicitor for the fire district . So I'll
moderate tonight . I call Mr . Mansfield to
establish a quorum .

MR . MANSFIELD : Michael, it's my opinion
that there are 36 eligible voters here tonight . A
quorum has been established .

MR . LYNCH : All right . Read the call .

MR . MANSFIELD : State of Rhode Island and
Providence Plantations . Annual meeting of the
Westerly Fire District . The annual meeting of the
Westerly Fire District will be held in Westerly
Town Hall, Town Council Chambers, 45 Broad Street,
Westerly, Rhode Island, Wednesday, August 27, 2014,
at 7 :00 P .M .

MR . LYNCH : Thank you, Mr . Mansfield .
I'll entertain a motion to dispense with the
reading of the minutes .

FIRE DISTRICT MEMBER : So moved .

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FIRE DISTRICT MEMBER : Second .

**MR . LYNCH : Any further discussion? All
those in favor .**

(VOICE VOTE : PASSED)

MR . LYNCH : Ayes have it . Move to

next order of business, Board of Engineers' report .

Mr . Fusaro .

**MR . FUSARO : Annual report, Board of
Engineers, Westerly Fire District, August 27, 2014 .**

**The Board of Engineers of the Westerly Fire
District respectfully submits the following annual
report to the eligible voters of the Westerly Fire
District for the period August 1, 2013, to July 31,
2014 .**

**During the year, the Westerly Fire
the**

**Department responded to 611 alarms, a decrease of
120 alarms over the previous year's total . There
were 53 fires in structures with a total property
damage of \$936,000 . The largest amount of property
damage was attributed to structure fires at 45
Granite Street and the Lombardo Building, 39-39
High Street . The Board of Engineers would like to
acknowledge the actions and the contributions of
the 46 men and women of the Westerly Fire
Department during the structure fire at the**

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**Lombardo Building on June 22, 2014 . During this
fire, three people were rescued over ladders after
being trapped by smoke in their third floor
apartments . These members, along with our mutual**

aid partners, performed with a spirit of dedication and service in hazardous conditions to protect and aid the citizens of the Westerly Fire District .

The Board of Engineers recognizes the extensive amount of time the firefighters of Westerly spend on training . The Westerly Fire Department continues to be one of the best trained groups of firefighters in our state . Currently, over 90 percent of the department is certified as Firefighter I or higher . This past year, seven members completed the Fire Instructor course, three of those members completed the Life Fire certification . Additionally, two members completed the Firefighter II course .

Over the past year, the Board of Engineers continued to make capital improvements to Stations I and II at 7 Union Street and 180 Beach Street .

Over the course of the year, new energy efficient windows and vinyl siding were installed at two stations . Also at Station 2, repairs were made to the sewer line and landscaping was done . Station 1

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and 2 both received now electronic entry systems .
The Board of Engineers would like to thank
all committee members, company line officers, and
staff officers of the various companies for their

dedication to our community . This dedication was evident at the major incidents where the average number of firefighters was 46 .

In conclusion, the Board of Engineers would like to acknowledge and thank the members of the Westerly Fire District for their dedication and support during the past year . Without the efforts of these men and women, the Westerly Fire District would not have the success that it has experienced this year . Respectfully submitted, Joe Fusaro, second assistant chief, secretary to the board .

MR . LYNCH : Thank you, Mr . Fusaro . I'll entertain a motion to approve the Board of Engineers' report .

FIRE DISTRICT MEMBER : So moved .

FIRE DISTRICT MEMBER : Second .

(VOICE VOTE : PASSED)

MR . LYNCH : Ayes have it . Thank you . Tax assessor's report . Mr . Lenihan indicated he's not available tonight . Mr . Lenihan has had available for quite some time now this particular report and

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**a copy of that has been presented and was available
for this evening's meeting . I'd entertain a motion
to approve the tax assessor's report .**

FIRE DISTRICT MEMBER : So moved .

FIRE DISTRICT MEMBER : Second .

MR . LYNCH : Any further discussion?

(VOICE VOTE : PASSED)

MR. LYNCH : Ayes have it . Moving to the treasurer's report . Again, the treasurer's report has been available in Mr . Lenihan's office for quite some time as well . Mr . Lenihan, again, is not available tonight . The report is available tonight prior to tonight's meeting . We have it . It's been presented . Copies are available in the back of the Town Council chambers . So, I'll entertain a motion to approve .

FIRE DISTRICT MEMBER : So moved .

FIRE DISTRICT MEMBER : Second .

MR . LYNCH : Any further discussion?

(VOICE VOTE : PASSED)

MR. LYNCH : The ayes have it . Move on to committee reports . First committee report is from the administrative board of the Westerly Fire Department Pension Trust . That meeting was held on June 11, 2014 . Again, those minutes -- the meeting

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**was a public meeting, called to order on that
particular day, the particular action and
recommendation are part of the budget this year .**

Again, these minutes have been available and

**already submitted to the fire district . I'll
entertain a motion to approve .**

FIRE DISTRICT MEMBER : . So moved .

**MR . LYNCH : The recommendation was made .
Is there a motion?**

FIRE DISTRICT MEMBER : So moved .

FIRE DISTRICT MEMBER : Second .

MR . LYNCH : Any further discussion?

(VOICE VOTE : PASSED)

**MR . LYNCH : Ayes have it . Next report,
the administrative board, service award program .
Again, this meeting took place on June 11, 2014, at
the Washington Trust . The minutes of this meeting
have also been presented . They were available
before this meeting . Any questions? If not, I'll
entertain a motion to approve the administrative
board recommendation .**

FIRE DISTRICT MEMBER : So moved .

FIRE DISTRICT MEMBER : Second .

MR . LYNCH : Any further discussion?

(VOICE VOTE : PASSED)

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**MR . LYNCH : Ayes have it . Any other old
business to come before the meeting? We'll move
on . New business . Chief, present the budget .**

CHIEF MACKAY : Good evening . Everyone has

a copy of the budget . If there's any questions,
I'd be more than glad to answer any questions .

MR . LYNCH : Are there any questions for
the chief on the budget as presented? I know you
had this in advance of tonight's meeting as well .
If not, I'll entertain a motion to approve the
budget as presented .

FIRE DISTRICT MEMBER : So moved .

FIRE DISTRICT MEMBER : Second .

MR . LYNCH : Thank you . Any further
discussion on the budget? If not, all those in
favor --

(VOICE VOTE : PASSED)

MR . LYNCH : Ayes have it . I'll entertain
a motion to set the tax rate at 55 cents per
thousand as recommended by Mike Lenihan .

FIRE DISTRICT MEMBER : So moved .

FIRE DISTRICT MEMBER : Second .

MR . LYNCH : Any further discussion?

(VOICE VOTE : PASSED)

MR . LYNCH : Ayes have it . I'll entertain

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a motion to set the tax collector/treasurer's bond .

FIRE DISTRICT MEMBER : So moved .

FIRE DISTRICT MEMBER : Second .

MR . LYNCH : Any further discussion?

(VOICE VOTE : PASSED)

MR . LYNCH : Ayes have it . I'll entertain a motion to provide for the auditing of the financial records of the district . Before someone makes a motion, I will tell you that there's legislation that's gone on throughout the state relative to fire districts . So, this is coming as a requirement, in any event . So, Westerly Fire District has always been ahead of the curve on this . So, I'll entertain a motion for the auditing of the financial records .

FIRE DISTRICT MEMBER : So moved .

FIRE DISTRICT MEMBER : Second .

MR . LYNCH : Any further discussion?

(VOICE VOTE : PASSED)

MR . LYNCH : Ayes have it . Any other new business to come before the meeting? No? I ask everybody to stand for a moment of silence for all deceased members of the Westerly Fire Department in the past year, specifically, John Barone, Richard Silva, and Nelson Durham .

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adjourn .

(MOMENT OF SILENCE OBSERVED)

MR . LYNCH : I'll entertain a motion to

FIRE DISTRICT MEMBER : So moved .

FIRE DISTRICT MEMBER : Second .

MR. LYNCH : Any further discussion?

(VOICE VOTE : PASSED)

MR . LYNCH : Ayes have it .

(MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7 :11 P .M .)